

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01836 021139Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-13 /073 W

----- 083989

R 021002Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 440

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER SOVIET BOOK ON SOVIET/FINNISH
RELATIONS

REF: HELSINKI 1800

1. CONTROVERSY OVER KOMMISSAROV/BARTENYEV BOOK ON SOVIET/
FINNISH RELATIONS NOW HAS SPREAD BEYOND FINNISH BORDERS.
TWO NORWEGIAN CONSERVATIVE PAPERS IN EDITORIALS ON AUG 31
DESCRIBED BOOK AS "TRIAL BALLOON OF THOSE SOVIET CIRCLES
WHO WANT A MORE ACTIVE SOVIET POLICY IN THE NORTH" (AFTEN-
POSTEN) AND "A FUTURE FOR THE ENTIRE POLICY OF KEKKONEN"
(MORGENBLADET).

2. FORMER AMBASSADOR MAX JAKOBSON IN ARTICLE CARRIED IN
FINLANDS MAJOR SWEDISH LANGUAGE DAILY, DEFENDED HIS BOOK
ON FINNISH NEUTRALITY, WHICH HAD BEEN CRITICIZED IN KOMMIS-
SAROV/BARTENYEV BOOK. JAKOBSON'S DEFENSE IN TRUN DREW
HEAVY CRITICISM FROM CENTER PARY DAILY. SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC DAILY IN EDITORIAL SEPT 2 ATTEMPTED TO
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DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET BOOK.

3. CALL FOR OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO SOVIET BOOK MADE IN
HELSINGIN SANOMAT EDITORIAL CITED PARA 4 REFTEL
REMAINS UNANSWERED, PRESUMABLY DUE IN PART TO CONTINU-
ING GOV UNCERTAINTY AS TO MOTIVATION BEHIND BOOK.
FEW PEOPLE IN FINLAND HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN BOOK.
HELSINGIN SANOMAT EDITOR TOLD DCM SEPT 1 THAT NO ONE
IN HIS ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT
HAD ACTUALLY SEEN BOOK.

4. MOST FINNS TO WHOM WE HAVE TALKED CONSIDER BOOK TO
BE AN UPDATED VERSION OF 1974 KOMMISSAROV BOOK BUT
SOMEHOW MORE AUTHORITATIVE BECAUSE THERE ARE NOW TWO
AUTHORS AND BOOK INTENDED FOR SOVIET AUDIENCE, NOT
PURELY FINNISH AS WAS CASE WITH EARLIER BOOK. MOST
FINNS ALSO BELIEVE LATEST BOOK HAS BEEN UNDER PREPARATION
FOR SOME TIME.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB MOSCOW REQUESTED ADVISE IF
REQUESTED TWO COPIES OF BOOK HAVE BEEN OBTAINED AND ALSO
WHEN BOOK WAS APPROVED FOR PRINTING.
AUSTAD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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